

DFS QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STEPHEN D. COAN, STATE FIRE MARSHAL • VOL. 8 • ISSUE 1 • MARCH, 2003

Fire Prevention—Now More than Ever

Fires Increase When Times Are Tough

All through the country, fire trends mirror the economy. When times are hard financially, there is an increase in fires. When we have an increase in fires we have an increase in injuries and deaths. That's why we need fire prevention now more than ever.

Fire Prevention is Fire Suppression

This sounds like a difficult subject, in light of budget cuts and tough fiscal times, but is it really? Since 1886 there have been laws within the Commonwealth that give power to the head of the fire department to utilize in the prevention and investigation of fires — it is nothing new. While we have seen a

decrease in fires due to new codes and the installation of fire alarms and sprinklers, a portion of this decrease can be attributed to fire prevention and public education. While fire prevention does not have the high profile distinction associated with working fires, hazardous material responses or medical calls, fire prevention is just as important and does save lives! The fire prevention and public education unit is your first line of defense in saving both civilian and firefighter lives within your community. Whether it is fire prevention, public education, or fire suppression — the goals are all the same. The goal of fire services is the protection of life and property, only the tools vary.

Community Firefighting

The role of fire prevention should be

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New Public Safety Secretary

Edward A. Flynn was appointed Secretary of Public Safety by Governor Mitt Romney in January 2003. Secretary Flynn is responsible for the management and administration of 21 agencies, boards, and commissions including the Massachusetts State Police, the Department of Correction, the National Guard, the Department of Fire Services, the Criminal History Systems Board, and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. The Executive Office of Public Safety has a budget totaling over \$1 billion, and employs more than 10,000 people.

Secretary Flynn comes to this position with over 32 years of law enforcement experience. Prior to his appointment as Secretary of Public Safety, he served for

five years as the Chief of Police in Arlington County, Virginia. In his capacity as Chief, Secretary Flynn was instrumental in the recovery effort at the Pentagon after the September 11 terrorist attack, and this past fall, he participated in the sniper shooting investigation in the Washington D.C. area.

Prior to his appointment in Virginia, Secretary Flynn served as Chief of Police in both the Chelsea (1993-1997) and Braintree (1988-1993) police departments. He began his law enforcement career in 1971 with the Hillside Township Police Department in New Jersey (1971-1973), before serving with the Jersey City Police Department for 15 years (1973-1988). ♦



From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

Stephen D. Coan

Early on the morning of February 21, I spoke with Rhode Island State Fire Marshal Jesse Owen offering whatever support and resources he needed. On behalf of the people of Massachusetts, I offered condolences to those who lost loved ones in the tragic nightclub fire and recognized the outstanding work and bravery of the Rhode Island fire service who were faced with such horrific conditions.

The video captured inside the nightclub fire has made the public keenly aware of how fire and smoke spread extremely quickly, limiting visibility and the capacity to escape. We in the fire profession should reinforce the message that wherever people go — someone else's home, a restaurant, movie theatre, the mall, a hotel, or an airplane — they should take a moment to look for all the exits, especially the one nearest to them. It is important to have two ways out of every building: think, "how would I get out if I could not exit the way I entered?" If anyone sees blocked exits, they should inform the local fire department.

Fire and Building Code Officials Work Together

Public safety requirements for nightclubs in Massachusetts' involve the coordination of both fire and building officials. There is a joint responsibility to work together

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From the Fire Marshal

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to manage and enforce the fire and building codes locally to ensure safety. Because fire prevention issues such as sprinklers, smoke detectors, size and number of exits, exit signs, panic hardware and flammability of interior finishes are all building code issues, the public is often confused about the roles of fire and building officials. It is important that local fire and building officials work together to share their expertise with local owners and operators to ensure the public safety.

Indoor Pyrotechnics

Indoor pyrotechnics is a fire issue. Permits for such displays are required from the local fire department and the "shooter" must be properly licensed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Governor Romney asked me to review the licenses of the 47 people holding special effects licenses in Massachusetts, which my staff has completed. We recommended to the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, ironically created itself in the wake of the tragic Coconut Grove nightclub fire, they require an immediate re-examination of every special effects license holder, and to then make re-examination a condition for renewal forever after. These emergency regulation changes were passed at the March 2003 meeting.

Welcome Secretary Flynn

It is in the wake of responding to this tragedy, that we had our first opportunity to meet and welcome Secretary Flynn back to Massachusetts and to work with him. While he certainly comes with a strong background in law enforcement and the impact of terrorism on local resources and capacity, he has quickly learned about the many roles of the fire service to prevent such tragedies and to respond to mass casualty incidents. ♦

MFA Adds Engine 5

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy recently took delivery of a new fire engine that will be used for training. The truck is a 2003 E-ONE custom pumper and is very similar to Engine 2, which was purchased last year. It replaces the "Grizzly" and will be called Engine 5.

The new truck is a 1250 GPM Typhoon pumper and has a 500-gallon water tank. It has seating for six in the cab, carries four different sizes of hose, and has telescoping lighting for nighttime training.

The pump features basic throttle control, pressure relief function, and manual operation of the discharge gates. The gauges are larger than normal for ease of viewing during training.

In keeping with the mission of training for the fire service, this engine allows us to have four engines that are very similar in layout. This feature allows for students to get the same message and hands-on experience no matter which piece they are using. ♦



Photo by Sue Peltier

New MFA Course Catalogs Out

We are very excited about our new course catalog that was recently mailed to all fire stations, as well as all fire chiefs and training officers in the Commonwealth. This format provides you with a course description, applications and all pertinent information needed to register for courses. Course offerings for January through June are shown in the spring 2003 catalog. The next mailing will be the fall 2003

catalog covering the September to December 2003 timeframe.

You can view our course listing at <http://www.state.ma.us/dfs/mfa/mfahome.htm> as well as register for most classes. We are currently in the process of updating our web site so that it will mirror this catalog. Flyers will still be mailed on a limited basis when specialized seminars are being presented. ♦

Fire Prevention Now More Than Ever

compared to the role of community policing. Through the 1990's community policing was discussed as a way to reduce crime, and through community policing the officers were allowed to interact with the community. Why should fire prevention and public education be anything different? Fire prevention should be the community policing of the fire service – for through this we have interaction with the public, and can help them be safer. Is there a difference?

What to Do Now

Now is the time to consider what your department does for fire prevention. It is through code enforcement and public education that the fire department can be visible to the public in promoting their safety and the safety of our own. It is better to be visible to the public and interact with our customers so they can understand what the fire service does every day. Interaction, through fire prevention and public education, reaches out to more members of the public through code enforcement and public education than fighting fires and responding to emergency medical or haz-mat calls. You reach them in a positive way too, looking out for their welfare before something bad happens.

Become familiar with the State Fire Code and the General Laws. It is from these two documents that the head of the fire department or their designee will get the information to enforce the fire code. Uniform enforcement of the Commonwealth's Fire Code and the General Laws will help your community have an equal standing for new businesses. Asking for more than what is in the code makes the fire service look bad and can cost your community business.

Traditionally the fire service looks at fire prevention as something "bad" because there is no guts and glory associated with it. It becomes the place

to put people on light duty or to finish their fire service careers. Fire prevention and public education should be taught to the fire service as a function of their day to day duties. After all, if you take a promotional exam you are tested on Mass. General Law. What is Mass. General Law? It is the fundamental basis for fire prevention in the Commonwealth. If you are tested on it – isn't it important? Fire prevention and public education are effective; just look at the SAFE Program. It works. Just think of this past holiday season and how many retail locations didn't have adequate aisles for the public or had emergency exits blocked? It is those same aisles and emergency exits that the fire service will need to use to access and fight a fire. It is also through public education that the fire service can be notified by the public when there are concerns. These two items go hand in hand! The protection of life and property applies equally to both members of your community and the members of your own department.

Fire Prevention Is a Firefighter Safety Issue

Fire prevention is a firefighter safety issue. That is the reason we now mark vacant and abandoned buildings for the safety of conducting an interior attack. In many cases, effective code enforcement would have prevented these buildings from deteriorating to this point. Firefighter safety is why we have the *right-to-know law* so we know in advance when certain dangerous or hazardous items are stored inside. Code enforcement also impacts how we train firefighters. We plan and respond to fires with expectations of what will be inside the building based on the building's construction and occupancy. When we arrive at a building that stores hazardous items, we expect that those items are stored in accordance with the regulations. If the code has not been enforced, firefighters could quickly be in trouble.

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State Fire Code

The State Fire Code was first enacted by the Legislature after the Cocoman Grove nightclub fire in Boston in 1942. This fire killed over 400 people who were enjoying a night out with family and friends. It was this fire that caused the state Legislature to create the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations. This board is made up of a diverse group of individuals appointed by the governor. These members represent professional engineers, fire chiefs, the electrical industry and the blasting industry. They all bring a level of expertise to the board to ensure we have an effective fire code. This is the code, in conjunction with Mass. General Laws, that the fire service uses to ensure public safety and firefighter safety.

By statute, the BFPR regulates: the keeping, storage, use, manufacture, sale, handling, transportation, or other disposition of flammables, combustibles, explosives and fireworks; model rockets; oil burners; prevention of any condition in or about any building, structure or other premise which may tend to become a fire hazard; adequate safety requirements for the protection of the public in certain facilities; safe storage, use, handling and manufacturing of corrosive liquids, oxidizing materials, toxic materials or poisonous gases; and regulations relative to fire prevention.

Why Do We Have the State Fire Code?

The state fire code was created to ensure public safety and to prevent people from being killed or injured in fires. "People" includes firefighters – this cannot be forgotten and is a major pillar of the state fire code. It is through the enforcement of the fire code that we ensure a minimum enforcement and uniformity through-

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MFIRS CORNER

Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System

Coding Tips

Motor Vehicle Fires

Incident Type (IT) 131-138.

Do not use IT 130 unless absolutely necessary

Enter the Mobile Property Type for the exact type of vehicle

FP 33C – Burned/Recovered Motor Vehicle Report

Owners must still be permitted to complete this form for all burned motor vehicles that happened in your jurisdiction. It is the vehicle owner's responsibility to present him/herself at a fire station and complete the form in front of someone from your department. Even if your department did not respond to the fire, if the owners present themselves to you to complete one of these forms you must comply. Just make sure that you put 'No Fire Department Response' where you would normally put the incident number. The owner gets a copy, you get a copy, and the fire department forwards the third copy to the Department of Fire Services, Fire Data & Public Education Unit.

On-Site Materials for Structure Fires

Incident Type between 111 and 129

Property Use code is in the 500, 600, 700 or 800 range then the On-Site Materials field is required.

On-Site materials not required for any other property use code ranges.

Arson/Juvenile-Set Fire Module

Required when:

Incident Type is 100-199

Cause of Ignition (Fire Module) = 1, Intentional or 5, Under Investigation

Do the best you can in the preliminary stages of the investigation.

Update Reports When Cause of Ignition is 5, Under Investigation

Make sure that if you code the Cause of Ignition = 5 that when a determination is made, you change it to any of the other causes. If you cannot complete this module on your own, please ask for help from the fire investigators or police officers (if any) working on the case with you.

Juvenile-Set Fire

Arson/juvenile-set module required when:

Human Factors Contributing to Ignition (Fire Module) = 7 – Age was a factor – and

Age of the minor is 17 or less.

Cause of Ignition is 1 – Intentional or 2 – Unintentional (codes 5 & U could also be used here).

Juvenile-set Fire in Wildland Fire Module

Enter the appropriate Wildland Fire Cause

Enter Human Factors Contributing to Ignition (Wildland) = 7 – Age was a factor, and the age of the minor (It must be 17 or less).

Wildland Fires

You may use the Fire Module instead of the Wildland Fire Module for incident types 140 through 143.

If your software program does not allow this option please contact your vendor and remind them of this option. If you have any problems, have them contact the Fire Data Unit.

Training

If you feel your department needs more training on MFIRS v5 and can guarantee 15 students, please contact Derryl Dion to set up a class. It is a 4-hour MFA class and now comes with 4 OEMS credits. Enrollment must be open to other departments.

Upcoming MFIRS Classes

1. Tuesday, 3/18/03 @ MFA, Stow, MA from 09:00 – 13:00 Course # 200000613 Session A.

2. Wednesday, 4/9/03 @ Brockton F.D., from 09:00 – 13:00 Course #200000613 Session B.

Please send in your academy registration applications as soon as possible. ♦

CFSI Dinner Theme - Securing Our Homeland

The 15th annual Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) dinner will held on April 30, 2003. This year's theme is *Securing Our Homeland*. Fire and emergency services leaders engage congressional and administrative leaders in discussions about the role of the nation's first responders in homeland security. In addition to the dinner, there will be workshops on the fire services role in the new Department of Homeland Security. Registration information is available at www.cfsi.org or by calling (202) 371-1277. ♦

Residential Fire Sprinkler Cost Breakdown

Reprinted with permission from the January 2003 issue of Sprinkler Age, the official publication of the American Fire Sprinkler Association. Visit their website at www.sprinklernet.org.

Protection for Pennies Per Day

Red Benn, president of AFSA member Advanced Automatic Sprinkler in Hayward, Calif. has developed a presentation that helps demonstrate the actual cost of owning a residential sprinkler system. The company specializes in residential installations and Benn created a *Fire Sprinkler Cost Breakdown*, showing the true cost of a residential system in the Northern California area. The information was presented to the Brentwood, Calif. city council members, who were considering a residential ordinance.

"The council had created a task force to determine the costs involved with requiring a residential sprinkler ordinance," states Benn. "When the task force presented its conclusion that sprinklers were too expensive, we were ready with a slide presentation and handouts."

Benn first broke down the mortgage information for a \$400,000 home, the average price for a 3,000 square foot home in his area. The cost to install the system was estimated to be \$3,000. Using a 7.75% interest rate on a 30-year mortgage, Benn calculated the \$3,000 sprinkler system cost would increase the monthly mortgage by \$20.47.

Next Benn figured the tax and insurance savings for installing a residential system. With 28% federal income tax

and 5% California state income tax, a tax credit of \$6.10 per month result from the deduction of the interest portion of the additional \$20.47.

Benn contacted insurance companies to gather the premium discount provided to homeowners with residential sprinkler systems. Quotes were given by six insurance companies. The premium reduction for having a residential fire sprinkler system ranged from \$90 per year to \$165 per year. Using the middle quote of \$136 per year, Benn calculated the savings to be \$11.33 per month.

Adding all the credits together gives a total of \$17.43 per month. Subtracting that from the monthly mortgage increase of \$20.47 leaves an increase of only \$3.04 per month for the protection of a residential fire sprinkler system.

"Basically, for the price of a Happy Meal or a Starbucks coffee, your family can be protected by a residential sprinkler system," Benn comments.

Despite home builders' claims that sprinklers were cost exorbitant for home buyers, the council passed a residential ordinance that same day.

"One city council member asked why we didn't present this information earlier," Benn says. "We told him we weren't invited to participate on the task force. This information can be customized for any city council considering a residential ordinance."

When Offered, Many Buyers Choose the Option

Even before realizing the savings, many families opt for a residential sprinkler system when building a new home.

"We've had many homebuyers who've had to push to install a sprinkler system, even at resistance of their home builder," states Benn.

One such customer had to wait until his home was completely built before he could retrofit the house with sprinklers.

"We tried to have them installed during the construction phase, but the builder told us we didn't technically own the house yet," the homebuyer states. "We waited until the construction

was finished and then had the system retrofitted into the house before we moved in."

"The system was installed within two days and with no disruption to us. Even then, the construction manager was discouraging the installation."

"I'm glad we persevered and now have the protection of a home fire sprinkler system. People don't even notice the flat discs concealing the sprinkler heads on the ceiling until we point them out. But we want everyone to know that we have this protection for our family." The costs presented do not include costs by water districts which vary from city to city. ♦



NEWS FROM CPSC

The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed.

November 12, 2002 - Release # 03-034

Eveready Battery Recalls Kidz Club Flashlights

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03034.html>



November 13, 2002 - Release #03-037

Stihl Recalls Chain Saws

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03037.html>



November 27, 2002 - Release #03-046

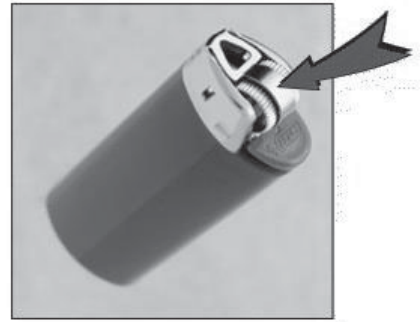
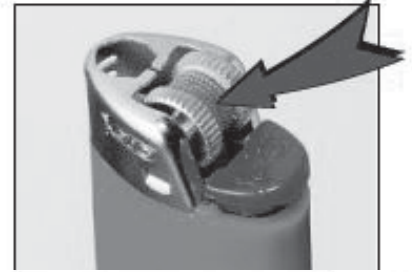
Tecumseh Products Co. Recalls Power Equipment Engines

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03046.html>

December 11, 2002 - Release # 03-052

Home Interiors and Gifts Announce Recall of Tea Lights

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03052.html



December 20, 2002 - Release # 03-057

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store(r) Recall of Motion Lamps

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03057.html>

December 26, 2002 - Release #03-062

Madrigal Recalls Subwoofers

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03062.html>

December 26, 2002 - Release # 03-063

Century Tool and Manufacturing Announce Recall of Camping Stoves

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03063.html>



December 26, 2002 - Release # 03-064

Brooklyn Lollipop Announces Recall of Electric Fans

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03064.html>

December 19, 2002 - Release # 03-054

Recall of Illegally Imported Cigarette Lighters

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03054.html>

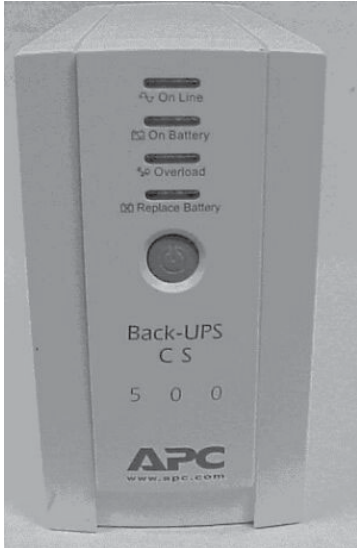
CPSC News

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January 14, 2002 - Release # 03-068

American Power Conversion Corp. Recalls Back-Up Power Supply Systems

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03068.html>



January 14, 2003 - Release #03-069

Innova Inc. to Replace Exploding Frying Pans

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03069.html>

January 24, 2003 - Release # 03-075

Tim Horton's Recalls Travel Mugs

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03075.html>



January 30, 2003 - Release # 03-077

Cooper Lighting Warn About 500-Watt Halogen Bulbs

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03077.html>

January 30, 2003 - Release # 03-078

Zenith Recalls Large-Screen, Analog Projection Televisions

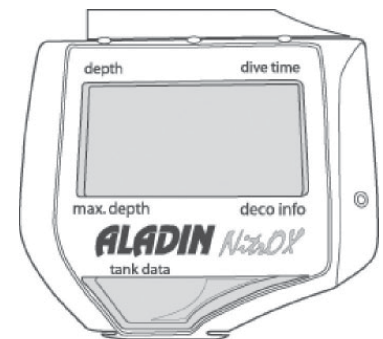
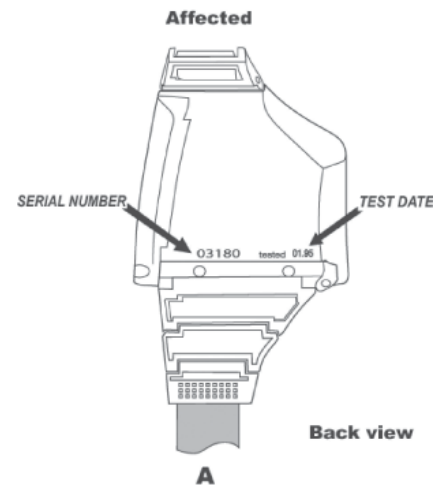
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03078.html>



February 5, 2003 - Release # 03-079

UWATEC AG Announce Recall of 1995 Dive Computers

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03079.html>



January 17, 2003 - Release #03-072

Missouri Company Ordered To Stop Manufacturing and Selling Illegal Fireworks

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03072.html> ♦





FIU Solves Fourth of July Fire in 24 Hours

The South Team solved a case of attempted murder by arson in Hull in less than 24 hours. On the afternoon of July 4, 2002, a man gave a ride to his friend Lucas Gravina in the back of his pickup. On their way, he stopped to also give a ride to the younger brother of another friend. Mr. Gravina had a long-standing feud with the youth's older brother Chris, and shortly an altercation broke out in the back of the truck.

The juvenile called his older brother at their cousin's home in South Boston to complain about the beating he had just received from his brother's enemy. Chris and cousin Grant McConnell took a cab from South Boston to Hull and arrived just before 3 a.m. in the neighborhood where Lucas lived. They paid the cab driver \$150 and asked him to wait "around the corner." Grabbing a can of gasoline they had brought with them, they ran down the street, past a neighbor sitting on the front stoop (too hot to sleep) and set fire to the exterior front of 69 Park Avenue. They knew full well that their intended victim, Lucas Gravina was asleep on the couch inside.

The fire extended from the exterior of the home to a motor vehicle. Fortunately, Lucas escaped the fire. It is extremely ironic that his father had been murdered some years before in the very same home. One Hull firefighter was injured battling the blaze.

A South Team State Police fire investigator worked around the clock with Hull fire investigators and Hull police detectives, who were very aware of the long-standing feud between Chris Bassett and Lucas Gravina, checking phone records, and interviewing friends and neighbors. The investigative team was able to arrest the first arsonist before midnight on July 5 and

the second on July 6. On Friday, January 3, 2002, Christopher F. Bassett and Grant L. McConnell, Jr., both 18, plead guilty to burning a dwelling and causing the injury of a firefighter during a criminal act. McConnell was sentenced to 4 years in state prison and Bassett was sentenced to 3 years, 6 months and 1 day. Neither was indicted for attempted murder by the grand jury. The witness has been recommended for an Arson Watch Reward.

Series of Arsons in Lynn Neighborhood Solved

Charges were filed against six juveniles in early December 2002, as part of a prolonged investigation into a series of motor vehicle arsons plaguing an east Lynn neighborhood dating from May 2000 to November 2002. The joint investigation by the Lynn Fire Department Arson Squad and the State Police assigned to the Fire Investigation Unit in the Office of the State Fire Marshal, led to filing additional charges against the youth arrested previously and bringing new charges against five other juveniles. The youngsters, aged 14 and 15, will be summonsed to appear in juvenile court.

The charges against the youths are for setting vehicles on fire that were stored in a lot behind Ingram's Garage on Chestnut Street on several different occasions and attempting to burn a van owned by Union Hospital that was parked in the hospital lot. On November 26, one juvenile was arrested and charged with setting two fires on Chestnut Street in east Lynn - an oil tank truck fire that occurred in the early morning hours of November 19 and a boat fire that occurred one block away about 23 hours later, still on November 19. All of these fires

occurred in the same east Lynn neighborhood.

In 2001, 5,090 motor vehicle fires were reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System, 737 of which were determined to be intentionally set, or arson.

Revere Man Gets 18 Years for Firebombing

In November 2002, Enzo Rivers, 50, was sentenced to 12-18 years in prison at MCI Cedar Junction for firebombing the Revere house where he had been living in 1999. Rivers had been living with a couple and their three children, all under the age of six, at the time of the fire bombing. Fortunately no one was injured in the early morning fire. Rivers had threatened the wife at work with a razor and made threatening telephone calls to the husband the day before. He set a fire in the hallway and tossed a gasoline-filled bottle in the parents' bedroom where the 2-year old also slept. When Rivers was arrested shortly after the incident, another firebomb was found in the trunk of his car. This fire was a joint investigation by the North Team State Troopers in the State Fire Marshal's Office and Revere Fire and Police Department investigators.

Beverly Store Owner Sentenced to 17 Years for Arson

In November, Umesh Patel, 43, a Beverly convenience store owner was sentenced to 17 years for arson in federal prison. He burned down his own store, the Crossing Corner Market, on February 7, 2002 in order to collect insurance money. He was experiencing financial difficulties including the loss of his license to sell

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Beverly Arsonist Gets 17 Years

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Massachusetts Lottery tickets and owed the Lottery Commission a substantial sum. Patel was convicted in May 2002 of arson that injured a firefighter, two counts of mail fraud, and for using fire in the commission of a felony. A Beverly firefighter received serious injuries fighting the fire and will not be able to return to duty. Patel was ordered to pay \$130,808 restitution to the two insurance companies he defrauded. He will also have five years of probation after the prison term. ♦

The **DFS Quarterly** is published every March, June, September, and December. If you have some newsworthy information to share with the fire service, you are welcome to submit articles to: Jennifer Mieth, Editor, DFS Quarterly, Dept. of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. (978) 567-3381 or Internet Address: Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

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Thank you to Judy O'Brien for keen-eyed proofreading and elegant rewording.

Public Safety Officials Graduate From Advanced Fire Investigation Course

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan is pleased to announce the graduation of the 6th class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's 40-hour Advanced Fire Investigation Course on January 14, 2003. This rigorous professional training provides our state's fire investigators, both fire department and law enforcement personnel, with advanced training in fire investigation techniques, case preparation, documentation, and prosecution. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program, tuition-free.

The thirty graduates, represent the fire departments of: Billerica, Boston, Hanson Haverhill, Hopkinton, Lexington, Lynn, Melrose, Milford, new Bedford, Newbury, Norwood, Peabody, Quincy, Salem, Somerville, Southborough, Tewksbury, and Tyngsboro and the Hopedale, Milford, Somerville and Tyngsboro police departments.

Instructors for this course are drawn from those that are active in arson investigation and prosecution in their everyday lives. Fire chiefs, state troopers assigned to the Fire Investigation Unit in the Office of the State Fire Marshal, assistant district attorneys, private attorneys, criminal trial judges, and state police lab technicians bring the cutting edge expertise from the real world into the classroom. Students have live fire scenes where they learn to work in teams and organize forensic cause and origin investigations, take evidence samples, photograph and

diagram the scene, and determine the cause of the fire using the laws of physics. They learn to interview witnesses, take and document statements, conduct document research for financially motivated crimes, protect evidence, interpret lab results, select additional subject matter experts (e.g. electricians, HVAC), and prepare reports. In addition, they learn how to present their case in court and conduct a mock jury trial.

"We have been using the witness-driven, team concept of fire investigation here in Massachusetts for nearly a decade quite effectively," said State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan. "It is imperative to interview witnesses at the fire scene before passers-by or occupants drift away and their memories are fresh, before they become hard to locate, change their stories, or memories fade," Coan added. "Our office is able to provide a quick influx of staffing at the scene which enhances the expertise of local fire and law enforcement officials. Trained fire officials can detect early signs that the fire was deliberately set, and local police officials know all the local trouble spots and troublemakers."

This course is open to State Police fire investigators, local police officers, and fire personnel involved in the investigation of fires who have completed a Basic Fire Investigation course. This course, in part, prepares investigators who wish to stand for certification by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council as *Certified Fire Investigator*. ♦

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

21st Annual FAIR Plan Poster Contest

February 1, 2003

The Arson Watch Reward Program is pleased to announce its 21st Annual Statewide Poster Contest for all students in grades 5-8 in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of Rhode Island.

This year's theme is "**Rekindle Your Fire Safety Sense**". This year's poster theme is a reminder to children, their teachers and family members to rethink the issue of fire safety before it is too late. Contest rules have been mailed to every fire department, but feel free to contact the Public Education Unit in the Office of the State Fire Marshal for additional copies. Entries must be received by the MA.-RI FAIR Plan by **Friday, April 11, 2003**.

Fire educators are encouraged to work with their local schools on this project. It is a good way to deliver fire safety to the middle school. Winning posters are printed on the covers of the MFIRS Annual Report and in a calendar. Should you have any questions, please contact the FAIR Plan's Nancy Rodes at (617) 557-5535 or the staff in the DFS Public Education Unit at (978) 567-3380. ♦

Remembering When Available in Russian and Spanish On-line

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has translated its *Remembering When: Fall and Fire Prevention Program for Older Adults* into Russian and Spanish. The materials are available for download from the NFPA website - www.npfa.org. If you are looking for good information in Russian or Spanish, regardless of the age of your audience, feel free to adapt this excellent resource. ♦

Car Seats Huge Success at Dracut Fire

By Mark Armstrong, Dracut Fire

The December 11 Child Passenger Safety Checkpoint at Dracut Fire Headquarters was hugely successful. Concerned parents and grandparents from Dracut, Lowell, Tyngsboro and other surrounding towns came to have their children's car seats professionally installed. In the span of four hours, 75 car seats were correctly installed. Fifteen of those installations involved the swapping of bad car seats for good ones. Every one of the 75 car seats that came into the firehouse had some error in its installation done by the owner.

The most common problems found were: a lack of understanding about how seatbelts work to hold car seats; after market products like ratchets used on seatbelts; car seat components being altered by the owner; using car seats that are too old or that have been recalled; and using the wrong seat for the child. All of the attendees were grateful to learn the following tips:

- Car seats are rated according to the child's weight. The ranges are usually 5 to 20 lbs. and 1 year old for rear facing seats, 20 to 40 lbs. for forward facing seats and 40 to 80 (sometimes 100) lbs. for booster seats. Use the right seat for your child.
- Car seats that have been recalled should not be used. Submit the user registration card to the manufacturer to be notified in the event of a recall. Owners can also check for recalls at www.nhtsa.com.
- Car seats more than six years old should not be used.
- Every seatbelt used to secure a car seat should be in the locked mode. How the various types of seatbelts work is usually a shocking surprise

to most people. The owner's manual for the vehicle will describe its particular seatbelts.

- The only components that should be used are those that come with the car seat when it is new. Products bought separately from the seat have not been crash tested with the seat and cannot be trusted.
- Car seat owners should not sew extensions to shoulder harness, create their own tether strap anchors, or otherwise alter the car seat installation from its original design.
- Never use a car seat that was involved in a car crash, even if no one was in it at the time.
- Never buy a used car seat. You should always be the original owner of the seat.
- Keep your car clean. Loose objects like books, tools, hard toys, suction cup sun shades, safety pinned mirrors, etc. become dangerous missiles inside the car during a crash. Use your trunk, window tint, and soft toys whenever possible.
- Puffy snowsuits and winter jackets prevent the child from being properly secured in the car seat. Warm up the car a few minutes earlier. Use blankets *over* the shoulder harness of the car seat. Use warm clothing and remove the jacket.
- The shoulder harness should be snug enough to allow one finger beneath it at the child's collarbone. Two fingers are too much. The child will accept this as snug and not too tight usually within one or two weeks.

People left knowing their children are safer in the event of a crash. The child passenger safety technicians who

Child Passenger Safety

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installed their seats had a very positive impact on the community. They represented Dracut Fire, Westford Fire and Police, Massachusetts State Police, Burlington Police, Marblehead Police, Bedford Fire and Police, Boxborough Police, Needham Police, Danvers Fire, Lowell Police, Methuen Police, Lawrence General Hospital, and Medford Police.

Special thanks go to the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau, Dracut Firefighters' Union, Good Olde Yum Yum, and Lenzi's Catering.

Car seats are still installed at the Dracut Fire Department by appointment by calling 978-454-2113. ♦

Rap Song: A Way Out

*By Firefighter Bill, Wilbraham Fire Dept.
All Rights Reserved*

Home escape is your plan
If you can't make one, nobody can
So make one up of your home
Because if not, you'll be alone
So, once you hear the beep from the
smoke and heat
Wake up fast from your sleep
Find a way to go
Either the front entrance or so
Make sure the plan has two ways out
And practiced twice a year
So you won't get burned in the rear
Once your out find your place
So people can see your face
Once you're out, Stay OUT!!!!
Once you're out, Stay OUT!!!! ♦

Candle Fire Safety

By Lt. Andrew Powell, Dracut Fire

Candle Safety Takes Another Step Forward!

How many times do you respond to a residential fire caused by a candle? Chances are this has happened more than it did 10 years ago. The rise in popularity of candles and the lack of consumer education make candles a

leading cause of home fires across the country. Information collected from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) report there are three major causes of home candle fires:

- Unattended burning candles account for approximately 60% of all candle fires.
- Combustibles too close to burning candles such as plastics, wood, furniture, curtains, bedding etc..
- Children and pets knocking candles over or playing recklessly with or around a lit candle.

It was obvious, something had to be done to reduce the number of candle fires that were occurring. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) approached the candle industry with the goal of improving candle safety and to minimize fatalities and injuries associated with candle fires. The National Candle Association (NCA) representing major candle manufacturers across the country took their case to the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).

The ASTM is a not-for-profit organization that develops standards for materials, products, systems and services used by American manufacturers and purchasers. Committees formed by producers, users, consumers, and those who have general interest in a particular product develop these standards. In 1997, the ASTM formed the Candle Products Subcommittee in an effort to address candle fire safety. Over the past five years, this subcommittee has made significant progress in addressing candle safety. To date, the ASTM has developed three standards.

- *F20568-00 Standard Specification for Cautionary Labeling for Candles Burned in the Home.* Created a consumer cautionary label that gives three safety messages: Keep burning candle within sight; Keep out of the reach of children and pets; and Never burn on or near anything that can catch fire.

- *F2179-02 Standard Specification for Annealed Soda-Lime Silicate Glass Containers that are Produced for Use as Candle Containers.* Creates a standard that thermal resistant glass used for candles will help reduce fires caused by imperfection in the glass itself.
- *PS-59 Provisional Specification for Fire Safety for Candles* This is the most recent and significant of the ASTM standards.

ASTM PS-59 Provisional Specification for Fire Safety for Candles

This standard, passed by the ASTM in January 2003, is a standard that the Office of the State Fire Marshal of Massachusetts (OSFM) had a small role in developing. Over the past two years, staff from the OSFM and members of the Massachusetts Public Fire and Life Safety Education Task Force were invited to participate in meetings with the ASTM subcommittee charged with developing this standard. Data from the 1999 joint study by the OSFM and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) on candle fires in Massachusetts was shared with the ASTM. Input from OSFM staff and task force members provided a clear voice from the fire service and public educators that candle manufacturers must take a proactive role in making available safer candle products to consumers. *The Provisional Specification for Fire Safety for Candles* addresses four prevalent causes of candle fires: excessive flame height, secondary ignition, end of useful life, and stability.

- **Excessive flame height** – The larger the flame, the greater the potential for nearby combustibles to ignite. This category restricts flame height on most candles to no higher than 3 inches and 3.75 inches for religious candles.
- **Secondary ignition** – Secondary ignition generally leads to larger flames and can result in ignition of

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Candle Fire Safety

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other combustibles. The standard describes the method to determine the tendency of candles to support ignition other than wicks such as wax pool temperatures, and candle flashovers.

- **End of useful life** – Candles allowed to burn to the end, especially container candles, can increase the likelihood of container failure and excessive flame heights. The standard states that a candle allowed to burn allowable fuel passes if it does not create excessive heat, exceed flame height, or cause container failure.
- **Stability** – Candles that tip over while burning can lead to excessive flame heights and ignition of combustibles. The standard states that defined candles do not tip over while subjected to a 10° incline.

Why a provisional standard? The goal of the ASTM subcommittee was to develop a standard that addressed the root causes of candle fires as soon as possible. The ASTM will now use the standard as a building block toward a permanent standard that will address additional causes of candle fires. Causes currently being reviewed are ignitable accessories and sooting. To the benefit of consumers, manufacturers for the first time have a written standard to manufacture a safer candle product. Safer candles will not completely eliminate candle fires, however, efforts by groups like ASTM are a step in the right direction. The fire service, especially public educators must be diligent in delivering safety messages concerning candles.

Available at the OSFM public education unit is information on candle safety including the *Candle Circle of Safety*. This candle safety logo delivers five key fire safety behaviors while using candles. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Jennifer Mieth, Public Education Manager, Office of the State Fire Marshal. ♦

CMR 14 Changes - Flammables

Recently, 527 CMR 14.00, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids, Flammable Solids or Flammable Gases*, was updated by the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR). Changes were made to the regulation in two major areas: the threshold storage amounts that require a license were updated, and NFPA 30 was referenced for most storage requirements.

Table 1 of 527 CMR 14 lists the amount of flammable or combustible liquids, solids, or gases that may be kept, stored, manufactured, or sold without obtaining a license. This table was updated to bring the amounts more in line with common industry practice today. The new amounts were determined to be reasonable for smaller businesses that may use flammable materials as a part of their business. Although the table increases the amount of material that may be stored without a license, a permit from the fire department is still required for the storage of flammable and combustible liquids, solids, and gases. Also, please note that larger installations, including most service stations, will still require a license. When applying the amounts in Table 1, the aggregate capacity of each separate class of flammable or combustible liquid shall be used to determine if a license is necessary.

The regulations for Class I liquids are now dependent on the type of storage and use of the liquid. For fixed installation of storage tanks in excess of 60 gallons capacity, where the liquid is not used for processing, the amount permissible without a license is 10,000

gallons. For Class I liquids in containers of 60 gallons capacity or less, or portable tanks over 60 gallons capacity not intended for fixed use, the amount permissible is 793 gallons. This amount is equivalent to 3,000 liters, and it is the standard size of intermediate bulk containers (IBC) commonly used in industry today. The amount of Class II, Class IIIA and Class IIIB liquids that can be stored without a license was increased to 10,000 gallons for each class.

Storage requirements for flammable liquids that were previously contained directly in CMR 14 are now referenced to the 2000 edition of NFPA 30. The referenced requirements are very similar to the previous requirements, but you now must go to the appropriate section of NFPA 30 in order to find the requirements. CMR 14.03 now has references to specific sections of NFPA 30 based on the occupancy type of the storage building. One difference in the new edition of CMR 14 is the requirements for automatic sprinkler protection of inside storage of flammable liquids. CMR 14 now directly references the requirements for the protection of flammable liquid storage, which are located in NFPA 30, section 4-8. Section 4-8 has specific sprinkler requirements based on the type of flammable liquids and the storage arrangement.

Should you have any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit or Technical Services at (978) 567-3300 or in western MA, (413) 587-3181. ♦

INDOOR PYROTECHNICS DISPLAYS

Special Effects Check List

Pre-Show Requirements

- Compliance with 527 CMR 2.04 regarding licensing and permitting
- Compliance with 527 CMR 2.09, which includes NFPA 1126
- Application must be submitted to the fire department at least 15 days prior to the show

Application must contain the following:

- Date, time and location of show.
- Name, address and Certificate of Competency of the operator.
- Types, amounts and description of pyrotechnics with sketches or diagrams of the location of the display.
- Location, manner and type of storage and location of storage.
- Evidence of a valid certificate of insurance for liability to the city/town – amount approved by the head of fire department.

Note:

Demonstration of display shall be conducted no less than 4 hours before the performance to the head of fire department. Notice of the demonstration to the head of the fire department shall be given at least 4 days prior.

During the Show

- Display shall be under the supervision of an individual competent operator with a Certificate of Competency issued by the marshal.
- Appropriate distance from the display shall be maintained by the audience in accordance with NFPA 1126.
- In accordance with NFPA 1126 6-6.2, “No part, projectile, or debris

from the pyrotechnic material or device shall be propelled so that it damages overhead properties, overhead equipment, or ceiling and walls”.

- **Fire extinguishers (NFPA 1126):** Two or more fire extinguishers of the proper classification and size, as approved by the head of the fire department, shall be readily accessible while the pyrotechnics are being loaded, prepared for firing or fired. ♦

Special Effects

State Role

Performing indoor pyrotechnics requires a license from the State Fire Marshal, that is obtained after successfully passing a competency exam showing knowledge of the regulations and safe use of pyrotechnics. A criminal background check is also conducted.

Another Massachusetts’s license holder who indicates they have worked under them as an apprentice must also endorse the applicant.

New regulations require the re-testing of all special effects license holders by the May 7, 2003 and re-examination will be a permanent part of the license renewal process for all fireworks license holders.

The company performing the special effects must also have a Fireworks/Special Effects User’s Certificate which requires they have a bond on file with the State Treasurer’s Office and effectively shows evidence of financial responsibility on the part of the company.

Local Role

Application for a permit must be filed with the local fire department at least 15 days in advance of the show. The

application would provide all the critical information about the show and the pyrotechnic materials to be used. A permit and inspection from the local fire department is required. The fire department can also require a demonstration of the show and a fire

Licensing Exams

All licensing exams will be given at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The same exams are given on the same dates, at the same times at the western Massachusetts office of the Department of Fire Services, One Prince Street, Northampton.

Cannon/Mortar/Fireworks/Special Effects

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Room 109

March 5, 2003

Fire Extinguishers

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Auditorium

April 24, 2003

Blasting

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Room 109

April 16, 2003

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications and exam dates to obtain new licenses or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by contacting Joanne Melanson, at (978) 567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. ♦

Status Report of Compliance/Enforcement Actions

The following is a status report of recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against individuals or companies for violations of MGL Chap. 148 and 527 CMR. The status of the action is provided and notation

is made regarding the effective date of the action. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals or companies who have had administrative hearings with decisions rendered will be documented in this space.

Should there be any question regarding

the status of any license or certificate please call the Office of the State Fire Marshal at any time for verification. The Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit or Technical Services can be reached at either (978) 567-3300 or in Western Mass. (413) 587-3181. ♦

Compliance/Enforcement Actions By The Department of Fire Services

Blasting Certificate of Competency

Ray Lizott	Revoked	
Kevin MacDonald	Suspended Five Years	Effective 4/9/01
Patrick O'Conner	Suspended Two Years	Effective 12/14/00
Charlie Despotopoulos	Suspended	Pending Re-examination
Frank Kenefick	Suspended Three Years	Effective 6/14/01
Harlan Bean	Suspended Two Years	Effective 12/20/01
Paul Selmer	Suspended	Pending Re-examination
Peter Januskiewicz	Suspended	Re-Examination
Timothy Kenneally	Suspended	Pending Re-Examination

Explosives User's Certificate

Exquisite Craft Development	Suspended Five Years	Effective 4/9/01
Granite Rock Drilling & Blasting	Revoked	
Cynjo Corp.	Suspended Three Years	Effective 10/30/01
CD Explosives	Suspended Three Years	Effective 11/19/01

Fireworks Certificate of Competency

Joseph Capone	Suspended Three Months, Re-examination	Effective 9/25/02
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Fireworks User's Certificate

Fire Equipment Certificate of Competency

Dennis Welch	Suspended One Year, Re-examination	Effective 8/15/02
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Terrorism HIGH Threat Level

Considerations for the Massachusetts Fire Service

Recent intelligence reports, corroborated through multiple intelligence sources, suggest an increased likelihood that the al Qaeda terrorist network may attempt to attack Americans in the United States or abroad. Based upon specific information analyzed by the intelligence community, and after conferring with the Homeland Security Council, the decision was made to increase the national threat level from yellow, or “elevated risk,” to orange, or “high risk.” At all threat conditions, we must remain vigilant, prepared, and ready to deter terrorist attacks.¹

Due to the Condition HIGH (Orange) Terrorism Threat Level for possible terrorist activities the following operational considerations are offered for all fire departments in the Commonwealth. These are recommendations for both HIGH and SEVERE (Red) Threat levels:

- Consider a change in daily department routines to a random schedule
- Secure all doors at all times
- Ensure all bay doors are closing/closed prior to leaving ramp
- Verify all radios are accounted for and secure non-issued units from public view and accessibility
- Remove keys from official vehicles while parked in bays and secure key boxes
- Verify that all self contained breathing apparatus is accounted for daily
- Maintain accountability for all issued and non-issued protective clothing
- Report missing items of issued gear or uniform clothing immediately through Chain-of-Command (One

item missing from several department members can add up to a complete set of gear or uniform.)

- Ensure that alternate/backup dispatch and emergency power capabilities are tested and functional
- Maintain strict control of department identification badges/cards (The public should be made aware of what forms of identification properly identify department personnel.)
- Do not allow unknown persons to enter firehouses without an escort.
- Do not leave unknown persons unsupervised in a station
- Be cautious of inquiries to response guidelines used by your department
- Consider a series of nuisance calls/fires at or near potential targets as an opportunity for terrorist to identify:
 - Response routes
 - Response times
 - Apparatus positioning/staging areas
 - Operational procedures
 - Manning
 - Opportunity to cause responders to “drop their guard”
- Be aware or suspicious of, and report to appropriate authority: Anyone photographing/video taping responses and operations, or
- Unfamiliar vehicles on department property.

In an unmanned firehouses:

- Consider restricting public activities at the unmanned station, including public social events and public education classes
- Consider code changes in combination locks/key keeper boxes
- Activate station security system at all times

- Perform random checks of firehouse status and security.

A record of all unusual occurrences and activities should be logged and reviewed daily to identify a potential pattern. If a pattern is noted it should be brought to the attention of local law enforcement agencies.

All responses should be approached with a heightened level of awareness for the potential of an unusual occurrence.

As always, the safety of the responder is our first priority.

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, www.dhs.gov, February 7, 2003

State Fire Marshal Convenes O2 Task Force

The increasing number of fire incidents and casualties involving smoking and home oxygen systems concerned Massachusetts State Fire Marshal, Stephen D. Coan. In response, a task force was assembled to discuss ways in which to reduce human and property loss from fires caused by smoking in the presence of an enriched oxygen environment. Education is an essential element in raising awareness of the risks of smoking in the presence of an enriched oxygen environment. Some of the ideas discussed involved increased public awareness of the risks of smoking near oxygen sources through public education and media announcements. Other proposals included regulations aimed at improved reporting mechanisms of patients at risk and follow-up patient care services such as smoking cessation programs.

The Task Force will continue its work this spring to develop educational, regulatory, and referral strategies. ♦

Recruit Class #155 Graduate

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan is pleased to announce the graduation of the 155th Class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's fifty-five day Recruit Firefighting Program on January 10, 2003. This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program, tuition-free.

The forty graduates, thirty-eight men and two women, represent the fire departments of: Amesbury, Bedford, Beverly, Bridgewater, Chelmsford, Chelsea, Holbrook, Hudson, Lawrence, Leominster, Lexington, Malden, Newton, Northampton, Raynham, Revere, Seekonk, Stoneham, Swampscott, Wellesley, Westborough, Westfield, and Weston.

Chelsea Fire Captain Robert Better, who participated in a recent rescue during a serious fire, addressed the graduating recruits.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy they learn all these skills and more from certified fire instructors who are also experienced firefighters.

Students learn all the basic skills they need to respond to fires and to contain and control them. They are also given training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, water rescue procedures, confined space rescue techniques, and rappelling. The intensive, eleven-week program for municipal firefighters involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training and live firefighting practice.

Basic Firefighter Skills

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Recruit Program all students have met national standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and are certified to the level of Firefighter I and II by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council.

◆



Recruit Class 155

Photo by Sue Peltier

Fire Prevention Now More Than Ever

Continued from page 3

out the Commonwealth. This is important when offering mutual aid. For instance, the storage of flammable liquids from one community to the next community would be protected and constructed the same. Although there is no such thing as a "routine" fire, the uniform enforcement of the state fire code will at least provide for a minimum protection. This minimum protection will help ensure the public can survive without injury or death and will assist in protecting the firefighter responding.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal can assist you in achieving your goals!

The OSFM has code compliance and enforcement officers to assist your department in understanding and enforcing the State Fire Code and General Laws; Technical Services, which includes fire protection engineers to assist your department in reviewing plans, fire alarms systems, sprinkler systems and the Explosive Safety Manager who can assist you with concerns or questions about blasting; Public Education Unit – get the data you need to present what is going on in your town or where to focus your public education efforts. They can also help you compare your town/city to another.

The OSFM is a resource to all fire departments that can be used to help you reach your department goals. If you need assistance you can reach us at: Compliance/Enforcement/Technical Services 978/567-3375; Public Education 978/567-3380; Licensing 978/567-3700.

Editor's Note: This article was written by Timothee Rodrique, Division Director, Office of the State Fire Marshal, before the tragic Rhode Island nightclub fire in February. ◆

New Public Education Flyers

Ice Safety Translated into Spanish

Our *Ice Safety* pamphlet and *Ice Safety FireFactors* have been translated into Spanish with the assistance of the Lawrence Fire Department, the head interpreter at the Lawrence District Court, and the NFPA's most-frequently used translator, Isabel Picado. In December, 2002, there was a horrible incident in Lawrence where seven boys fell through the ice on the Merrimack River, each trying to rescue those that had fallen in before. Four boys died and three survived. This spring, when the warm weather hits and the thaw begins, it will be important to teach our citizens to stay off the ice and if someone does fall in to call for help first. In addition to posting these flyers on the DFS website, there is an entire webpage with information and resources, including a Powerpoint presentation, for your use. The address is: www.mass.gov/dfs/lifesafe/icesafe.htm.

Open Burning Safely

Spring also brings open burning season. The late snow cover will mean more open burning crowded into a shorter season. At the request of many fire chiefs, and with the help of the Massachusetts Fire and Life Safety Public Education Task Force, the Public Education Unit put together a new FireFactors on Open Burning Safely.

All of our flyers, pamphlets and FireFactors are available for download from www.mass.gov/dfs/pubed/flyers.

RFSI's Fire Department Award Program

The 10th Annual Life Safety Achievement (LSA) Award campaign is underway. The first official application will be published in the January/February 2003 edition of the Operation Life Safety Newsletter — the official publication of the

Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI). The application will appear in every issue through the June/July 2003 edition and the deadline is July 31, 2003. Awards will be distributed to participating state fire marshals for co-signature and distribution in early September 2003.

The RFSI will provide the official application for reproduction purposes. In mid-September, state fire marshals will receive a complete package of certificates, presentation folders, mailing labels and sufficient copies of the annual press release for each recipient within the state. State fire marshals should co-sign the award and distribute them before Fire Prevention Week in early October. Feel free to download the LSA application from <http://www.firesafehome.org/general/LSAApp.asp>. This program is supported by the RFSI and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. ♦

Incident Rehab Unit Activated

As of February 1, 2003, the Department of Fire Services has made an Incident Rehab Unit (bus) available to support the Commonwealth's fire service. It will respond only at the request of the incident commander and arrives with a team that has completed the academy's *Rehab on the Fireground* training. Team members will assist in set up and operation of the rehab area and will work in conjunction with local EMS to provide proper monitoring if requested. There is no charge or fee associated with the use of the Rehab Unit or the support team.

By design, the vehicle is NOT designed for rapid deployment. That is something that should be taken into consideration when requesting it. However, for large scale or long-term incidents, it is a valuable resource to have, particularly for the human resources that come with the vehicle

To activate the Rehab Unit contact the Mass. Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) headquarters in Framingham at (509) 820-2000 and ask for communications. Once the phone call is made, the State Fire Marshal, Deputy State Fire Marshal or designee will be paged and the appropriate driver and support team will be activated. ♦

The Best of the Bravest Series Presents Phoenix Fire Chief Alan Brunacini

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy will present Phoenix Fire Chief Alan V. Brunacini as the next featured speaker in its *Best of the Bravest* series. Chief Brunacini's presentation the Incident Commanders Role in Saving Our Own will be held on March 25, 2003 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Best Western Royal Plaza in Marlborough, MA. The cost is \$80.00. Teaching firefighters emergency survival skills has currently become an important and popular fire service program, Our department members routinely work in tough situations and teaching them how to properly react to save themselves can make the difference between life and death. This seminar from the nation's top authority on fireground command will help you sharpen your skills and improve your perspective. Learn new aspects of the incident management system through the eyes of the incident commander as only Fire Chief Alan Brunacini can teach it.

Chief Brunacini has been a member of the Phoenix Fire Department since 1958. He is a graduate of the Fire Protection Technology Program at Oklahoma State University and has a Bachelor's in Political Science and a Masters in Public Administration from Arizona State University.

For questions please contact Joseph Guarnera, Special Projects Coordinator at (978) 567-3258. ♦

HOMELAND SECURITY: A conference on Preparing for and Managing Terrorism and WMD Incidents

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Public Safety, and the Department of Fire Services are pleased to present the Homeland Security Conference Preparing for and Managing Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents. It will be held May 8 and 9, 2003 at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center, Westford, MA. This conference is designed to assist the emergency services to prepare for and manage terrorism / weapons of mass destruction incidents. The goal of this seminar is to demonstrate, to the public safety community, the importance of working together to mitigate terrorism and weapons of mass destruction incidents. Command and emergency response personnel from law enforcement, the fire service, emergency medical services, hazardous materials teams, emergency management agencies, federal and state agencies and departments involved in homeland defense should plan to attend this extremely informative and timely conference. Attendees will have a choice of attending either day or both days.

The cost of the conference is \$75.00 for attendance on one day or \$125.00 for both. This includes all sessions, breaks and lunch. Six hours of MA OEMS credits for each day have been applied for.

Special Security Measures In Place

In order to address security concerns, pre-registration is required. Additionally, all applications must be accompanied by a letter of endorsement from the head of the department or agency printed on department /agency letterhead. Department/Agency ID, and/or picture ID must be shown when registering on the day of the conference. **No walk-ins will be allowed.**

May 8, 2003

0800-0900 Registration

0900-0905 Welcome – Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan

0905-0915 Executive Office of Public Safety Remarks – Secretary Edward Flynn

0915- 1200 Unified Command at the Pentagon – Secretary of Public Safety, Edward Flynn and Fire Chief Edward Plaugher: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety, Edward Flynn (former Police Chief of Arlington County Virginia) and Chief Edward Plaugher, Fire Chief of Arlington County Virginia were the Incident Commanders respectively of their agencies response on September 11, 2001 when the third hijacked plane on that day struck the Pentagon.

1200-1300 Lunch

1300-1430 ICS in Northern Ireland – Chief Fire Officer Peter Craig: Chief Craig was the incident commander at the Omagh Bombing in August 1998 at which 29 people died and over 400 were injured (the worst atrocity in the troubles in Northern Ireland of the past 30 years). Firefighting in Northern Ireland is unique in that operational personnel face the treat of terrorist attack a daily basis.

1445-1615 Breakout Sessions

The Crash of Egypt Air Flight 990 off Nantucket Island – Dr. Elizabeth Laposata, Chief Medical Examiner – State of Rhode Island: On October 31, 1999 Flight 990 crashed off the Island of Nantucket and the State of Rhode Island Medical Examiner's Office was called upon to handle the examination and identification of over 5000 fragmented human remains of victims.

The Public Information Officer: The

Challenge of the Media – Assistant Chief Jon Hansen, Oklahoma City F.D. (retired): On April 19, 1995 the Oklahoma City Fire Department was put to the challenge in dealing with this country's worse case of domestic terrorism. Assistant Chief Hansen will share his experiences of working with the media from around the world during the recovery efforts at the Alfred P. Murrah building explosion. (Repeated Day 2)

Using Global Information Systems (GIS) in Fire Protection & Law Enforcement – Fire Chief Don Oliver and Police Chief John Powell of Wilson, North Carolina: Will share their cooperative efforts and experiences of their agencies in implementing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology over the past 3 years. In this overview program, students will be exposed to the latest information on applying GIS technology to the fire/police service, including how to employ it for community risk assessment, arson & crime problem identification, *CFAI Standards of Cover* and planning for homeland security. Both chiefs will share how forming partnerships in a community, including the Fire/Police/Information Technology Services synergy has improved the safety and *quality of life* in the Wilson community. (Repeated Day 2)

The "Dirty Bomb" – Ms. Sherry Minnick, Health Physicist, Environmental Protection Agency Region 3: Ms. Minnick will share EPA's role in tracking lost or stolen radioactive sources. EPA also has a role in investigating and searching potential "dirty bombs".

The US Postal Inspection Service the tracking of Weapons of Mass Destruction – Ken Jones, U.S. Postal Service: Discussing the role of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in investigating crimes involving weapons of mass destruction and what resources can be

Homeland Security Conference

made available to assist other law enforcement agencies and the fire service. (Repeated Day 2)

Smallpox Concerns for First Responders – Dr. Anthony Carbone, MD, MS, MPH - Harvard Center for Public Health Preparedness: Speaking on the smallpox concerns for the first responder. Counterterrorism Awareness State of New York Sergeant Brian Ball, Greece, New York Police Department: Explaining the New York State Terrorism Awareness Program taught to all police officers; also will discuss their successful program on suicide bomber, truck bomber awareness that will help all first responders. (Repeated Day 2)

Radiological Assistance Program – Speaker to be announced.

Case Study – Working Together to Produce Results: Members of the public safety community will discuss how something that began as a routine crime scene evolved into a major response from multiple public safety agencies. Working together, these agencies were successful in mitigating the incident without injury. (Repeated Day 2)

1615-1630 Closing Remarks

May 9, 2003

0800-0900 Registration

0900-0905 Welcome – Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan

0910-1200 The Israeli Perspective – Colonel Chaim Maoz, Israeli Defense Force and Colonel Shlomi Langer, General Secret Service of Israel (retired): Colonel Chaim Maoz, Israeli Defense Force and Colonel Shlomi Langer, General Secret Service of Israel (retired) will share their experiences in dealing with terrorism and counter terrorism in the state of Israel. You will hear their thoughts on planning, preparing and dealing with terrorism and weapons of mass destruction incidents.

1200-1300 Lunch – Dr. Hayden Duggan, On-Site Academy: Dr. Duggan will explain the success of using CISM at incidents involving terrorism and WMD. Success stories from the World Trade Center as well as incidents in Israel will be discussed.

1300-1430 General Session – Dr. David Franz, former Chief Inspector, United Nations Special Commission: Dr. Franz will speak on his experiences in both Russia and Iraq while searching for Anthrax and other weapons of mass destruction agents.

1445-1615 Breakout Sessions

Workshops repeated from Day 1

The Public Information Officer: The Challenge of the Media

Using Global Information Systems (GIS) in Fire Protection & Law Enforcement

The US Postal Inspection Service the tracking of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Health Preparedness: Speaking on the smallpox concerns for the first responder.

Continued from previous page

Case Study – Working Together to Produce Results:

New workshops on Day 2

Federal Bureau of Investigation – Speaker to be determined: Will be sending one of their microbiologists to bring us up-to-date on the anthrax investigation and they will also discuss how the FBI handles such an investigation.

Department of Energy – Speaker to be determined: A representative from the Department of Energy will discuss the Brook Haven Group and Brook Haven National Laboratory Radiological Assistance Program which is designed to ensure that the capability of the Department of Energy's radiological emergency response assets are maintained at a consistently high level of quality in the event of a real or potential radiological accident where DOE assistance is requested. The DOE/RAP program has assisted local, state and federal agencies in the investigation of radiological threats since 9/11.

1615-1630 Closing Remarks ♦

MAY 8 and 9, 2003

A conference on Preparing for and Managing Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents

Who Should Attend?

Command and emergency response personnel from:

- law enforcement
- the fire service
- emergency medical services
- hazardous materials teams
- emergency management agencies
- federal and state agencies
- departments involved in homeland defense

Public Safety in Nightclubs and Places of Assembly

Fire officials noted that Massachusetts is no stranger to the danger of nightclub fires. The most famous was Boston's Cocoanut Grove fire in 1942, which killed 492. It led to creation of the state Board of Fire Prevention Regulations and the statewide, uniform fire code.

At the direction of Governor Romney and Secretary Flynn, Commissioner of Public Safety Joe Lalli and State Fire Marshal Steve Coan have developed a joint training seminar for local fire and building officials dealing with places of public assembly. Five training sessions were delivered all around state. Technical staff from the Department of Fire Services' Office of the State Fire Marshal discussed the fire code issues. Representatives from the Board of

Deadliest Club Fires in US History

- 492** Cocoanut Grove, Boston, MA, Nov. 28, 1942
- 198** Rhythm Night Club, Natchez, MS., April 23, 1940
- 164** Beverly Hills Supper Club, Southgate, KY, May 28, 1977
- 96** The Station, West Warwick, RI, Feb. 20, 2003
- 87** Happy Land Social Club, The Bronx, NY, March 25, 1990
- 40** Dance hall, West Plains, MO, April 13, 1928 (explosion)
- 32** Upstairs Bar, New Orleans, LA, June 24, 1973
- 25** Puerto Rican Social Club, The Bronx, NY, Oct. 24, 1976
- 24** Gulliver's Discoteque, Port Chester, NY, June 30, 1974

SOURCES: Boston Globe, Associated Press, World Almanac, InfoPlease Almanac, Facts on

Building Regulations and Standards and technical staff from the Department of Public Safety's Division of Inspections discussed applicable sections of the building code. The

requirements for use of indoor pyrotechnics was also covered. It is important to be familiar with 527 CMR 2, 10 and NFPA 1126.



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